



Retired

**RETIRED
ELECTIONS
EDITION**

**Nomination
Form
Enclosed**

**RETURN
NOMINATION
FORMS BY
NOVEMBER 13**

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IN-ACTION

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Larry Koenck

Another summer has come to an end and we will be inundated with more campaign information than most of us choose to tolerate as we get closer to the 2016 elections. A good way to start your involvement will be to attend your precinct caucus as this is your opportunity to help develop policy in the political party platforms. I would encourage you to run to be a delegate to your District, County or municipal convention; then run to be a delegate to your Congressional District Convention and finally run to be a State Convention delegate.

There are groups out there who are trying to dismantle institutions that a lot of us depend on. They would like to privatize Social Security, Medicare, and change public employee pensions from defined benefit to defined contribution. If you don't understand the differences between these two types of benefits it is time you begin to educate yourself. A good source for information on this can be found at www.minnesotatra.org.

These same people are trying to dismantle Planned Parenthood funding as well. They are sending out information that is not accurate. As they have done in the past, they try to scare people with these tactics. If you receive information that you think is not factual, do a fact check. How many of you utilized Planned Parenthood services or have children or grandchildren that have accessed Planned Parenthood information?

As you talk with candidates, and they say our public education system is broken and they will fix it, ask them how do they plan to fix it? Privatize? The same is true for ACA. What is their solution to insuring more residents? How about keeping their children on their plans until they are 26? Are they interested in insuring people with pre-existing conditions?

Now is the time to make yourself knowledgeable about the issues so your vote can help stop this phony war on voter registration, the war on women and their access to preventive care. Vote with your heart.

2015 RETIRED ANNUAL MEETING

BY BOBBIE MARGO

This year's 32nd NEA Retired Annual Meeting was held at the Hyatt Regency in Orlando, Florida from June 28-29, 2015. The theme for this meeting was "Unite, Inspire, Lead." Marilyn Warner, President of the Florida Education Association-Retired extended greetings. She reminded us that years ago Ponce de Leon was searching in Florida for the "fountain of youth." Warner stated that in looking around the room, "the fountain of youth is alive and well!"

The first keynote speakers consisted of a panel of the three top NEA officers; President Lily Eskelsen Garcia, Vice-President Becky Pringle and Treasurer Princess Moss. They indicated that retirees are the fastest growing segment of NEA with 306,177 members up 6,138 from 2014 (YIPEE)! NRLB-No Retiree should be Left Behind-we **ALL** are important to the health of NEA. As retirees, we have walked the walk and talked the talk. We are ready and we are able to work side-by-side with the active educators in our locals. We must elect policy makers who are pro-education. Retirees have the expertise and the wisdom to make this happen. We, as retirees, are an extension of the NEA family.

On the final day of the retired meeting, business was conducted. Two \$2,000 scholarships from the Jack Kinnamon (Cat in the Hat man) Fund were presented.

Ten new business items were discussed/voted upon. To date, NEA retirees have raised \$35,000+ for the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education.

Mary Kusler, Director NEA Government Relations, was the day's final speaker. Kusler spoke about how 1965 was an incredible year! The ESEA (Elementary/Secondary Education Act), head start and Medicare were all born. We NEED 2015 to be the new 1965! Congress's attention needs to focus on the re-authorization of ESEA. A child's zip code should not determine his/her educa-

tion. For the 2016 elections, the House will continue to be Republican because of redistricting but the Senate make-up will be a much better year for the Democrats. PLUS it is a Presidential election year!



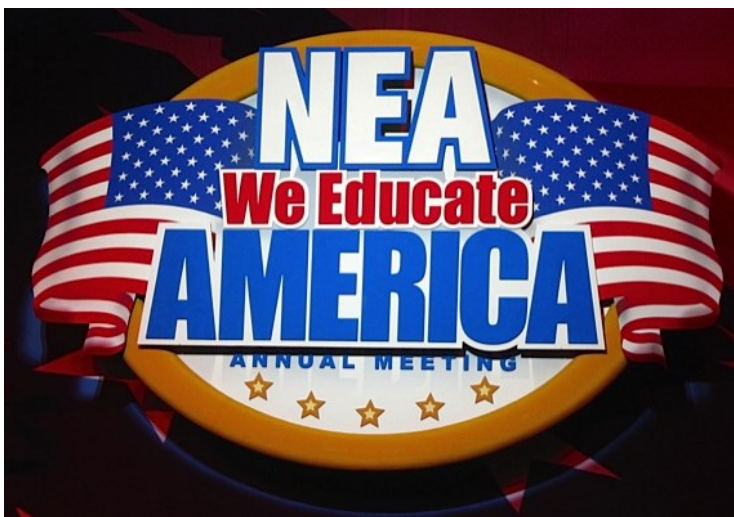
I completed my 6th and final year (termed out) representing the NEA Retired on the NEA Resolutions Committee. However, Judy Rohde was one of six elected to represent the NEA Retired on the NEA Resolutions Committee for the 2016 term (way to go Judy)! ED MN-Retired will continue to be represented at the national level.

The NEA Retired Meeting adjourned on Monday, June 29th. All of the Education Minnesota retirees packed up our "stuff" and switched hotels to join our Education Minnesota State Delegation in order to attend the NEA Representative Assembly. Our hotel was the Caribe Royal. We were located about 7-8 miles from the Convention Center so it was back to depending on shuttle buses for transportation.

2015 NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

BY BOBBIE MARGO

The NEA RA was held at the Orlando Orange County Convention Center from July 3-6, 2015. The first day of business opened with greetings from Andy Ford, President of the Florida Education Association. Ford stated that even though the air outside was hot, humid, icky, and sticky (it was pretty nasty), to put us in a better frame of mind, we needed to use the word "sultry." Minnesota's own Chelsey Jo Herrig, Chair of the NEA Student Program, led the delegates in the Pledge of Allegiance.



Special guest speaker was Randi Weingarten, President of the AFT. Weingarten reminded us that women who have made history were NOT well behaved! Her speech closed with the sobering thought that now, for too many families, the American Dream is out of reach. NEA President Lily Eskelsen Garcia followed with her speech regarding the need to give our educators the time, the trust, and the tools to do their job.

Speeches from "Teacher of the Year" Shanna Peeples (English-Texas) and "Education Support Professional of the Year" Janet Eberhardt (California) were well received. Peeples stressed the need for less testing and more teaching-with research and data supporting this statement. Research and data are like a bikini-a lot is left uncovered, but the important parts ARE covered! Eberhardt stated that the cooperation of

ALL moving parts makes for a successful school.

This year's "Friend of Education Award" went to Paula A. Kerger, President and CEO of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). PBS is America's largest on-air classroom. Can you say Sesame Street? Throughout the years, the characters from that program have permeated our culture. Where would we be without Kermit?

We DID have time for business. Delegates elected (by secret ballot) were Shelly Moore (Wisconsin) to the NEA Executive Committee along with 4 at-large ESP individuals to the NEA Board of Directors. Again by secret ballot, 2 Constitutional Amendments and 4 By-Law Amendments were voted upon. Discussion "on the floor" for 4 days involved 122 new business items, 3 policy statement amendments, 14 legislative amendments and a number of standing rules and resolutions. Delegates spent even more this year with regard to how much it will actually **COST** to implement new business items.

The 2014 Rep Assembly spent \$821,797. The 2015 Rep Assembly spent \$1,000,000+.

NEA by the numbers:

1. NEA Fund for Children and Public Education raised \$3,000,00
2. There were over 7,000 registered delegates from all 50 states
3. NEA is the largest union in America-over 3 million members
4. Business concluded at 7:29 pm on Monday, July 6
5. The 2016 RA will be held in Washington, DC

On behalf of Julie Jagusch, Larry Koenck, Diane Larson, Walt Munsterman, Judy Rohde, Cathy Stringfield, and myself, we **sincerely thank YOU**, the members of ED MN Retired, for giving us the opportunity to attend the NEA Retired Annual Meeting and the NEA Representative Assembly. ALL of us were very proud to be representing our state and our retired organization. We represented you with excitement, enthusiasm, and energy (even in the heat)!



EYE ON THE PENSION

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BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE STUDY:
TRA CHALLENGE FOR NEW FISCAL YEAR

BY MARTI ZINS

The TRA board will be reviewing the information gleaned from the experience study just completed by the TRA actuary. Actuaries make reasoned assumptions about the cost of the pension plan and what contributions and investment returns are needed to fund that plan. The experience study, mandated by Minnesota law every four years, reviews those assumptions to see how the assumed results compare to what actually transpired. TRA requested that the legislature not change the assumption rate until the experience study was completed and the findings could be reviewed. After the study is reviewed, the TRA board will create a plan with adjustments to keep the pension on target for full funding. These plans are reviewed by stakeholders and go to the legislature for implementation.

Some of the assumptions actuaries make include:

- What is the ratio of males to females?
- What is the life expectancy of males and females?
Has it changed and how?
- How long are educator careers?
What age do they retire?
- Are educators earning what we assumed for salaries?
Has it changed and how?

If assumptions change, several questions need to be answered:

- Is the fund required to pay out more money or are we not meeting the expectations of the current actuary tables?
- Do we need new actuary tables?
- Are the investment assumptions sustainable given the investment market?

The State Board of Investment, SBI, also studies their operations to see if they are investing in the best balance of assets, working with money managers who are performing well, and have an investment assumption rate that is sustainable and reasonable (currently "Select and Ultimate" for TRA and 8% for PERA and MSRS). TRA, its actuary and the SBI look to long-term rates and typically have a horizon of 50 years. However, legislators frequently look more short term, approximately two years, and may propose actions that respond to short term information rather than the long term outlook.

Pension components are interrelated. If you lower the investment rate, the fund must either increase the amount active teachers and employers contribute or re-

BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE STUDY CONT...

duce or freeze the COLA paid to retirees. Any action taken has an effect on another part of the plan; therefore thoughtful consideration must be given to any change.

The TRA board is unique in that it owes an equal fiduciary responsibility to the pension plan member, the state and the taxpayer. The board must balance the interests of all three equally when making a decision.

The TRA board will review the data at their August meeting and chart a course of action for the future. Maintaining the stability and viability of our defined benefit pension fund is our top priority. How to accomplish this will require thoughtful discussion and action. Sharing information among stakeholders is vital; for all stakeholders share in the success and the solution for a stable pension plan.



Retake control of your healthcare decisions and call Tim Schatz today for a no-cost consultation

Did you know that as a member of Education Minnesota Retired you have access to Education Minnesota sponsored group Medicare insurance options?

Minnesota Health Insurance Network's (MNHI) **Total Solution** to healthcare ensures that Education Minnesota Retired members have access to affordable individual, family, and Medicare products in retirement. MNHI helps members understand the differences between carriers, plan designs, provider networks, and, most importantly, how to select a plan that will best meet their needs. For more information contact our dedicated representative, Tim Schatz, at 952-465-0072.



MNHI.net
Minnesota Health
Insurance Network

Medicare Made Easy!

Please join us for one of the following FREE seminars!

Know Your Options!

As a member of Education Minnesota, you and your spouse/partner are eligible for group Medicare solutions offered through Humana, Medica and UCare. In addition to competitive pricing and savings, members enjoy benefits which include low annual out of pocket maximums as well as multiple options offering prescription drug coverage through the coverage gap or “donut hole”. Please attend one of our “Medicare Made Easy” seminars to learn more about Medicare and the benefits of group insurance. We will cover the basics of Medicare – Parts A and B and provide you with an overview of plans only offered to Education Minnesota members.

PLEASE NOTE: the open enrollment period for 2016 runs from Oct. 15 – Dec. 7, 2015.



ESI

Member Benefits

Space is limited, please RSVP at your earliest convenience:

Email: Deborah.skog@edmn.org or call 651-292-4856 / 800-642-4624

41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103

651-292-4856 | 800-642-4624 | Fax: 651-292-4815

esi.educationminnesota.org

All workshops take place from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Date	Location	Address
20-Oct	Minnetonka Community Center	14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka, MN 55345
22-Oct	Holiday Inn and Suites	4550 12th Ave E, Shakopee, MN 55379
27-Oct	Hiway Federal Credit Union Administrative Office Building	840 Westminster St., St Paul, MN 55130
29-Oct	Clarion - Rochester	1630 S. Broadway, Rochester, MN 55904
2-Nov	Holiday Inn and Suites	75 South 37th Ave., St. Cloud, MN 56301
4-Nov	Hilton Garden Inn	20 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato, MN 56001
10-Nov	Duluth Comfort Inn West	3900 W. Superior St., Duluth, MN 55807
12-Nov	Maple Grove Community Center	12951 Weaver Lake Rd., Maple Grove, MN 55369
14-Nov	Education Minnesota	41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103
1-Dec	Eagan Community Center	1501 Central Pkwy, Eagan, MN 55121

2015-16 EDUCATION MINNESOTA RETIRED NOMINATION FORM

Retired Member Submitting this form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Candidate Information

☐ I am declaring myself as a candidate ☐ I am nominating the following as a candidate

Candidate Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

BOARD POSITIONS (PLEASE CHECK ONLY ONE POSITION)

NO BOARD POSITIONS OPEN THIS ELECTION

DELEGATE POSITIONS (YOU MAY RUN FOR ONE OR ALL OF THESE POSITIONS)

☐ EDUCATION MINNESOTA REPRESENTATIVE CONVENTION (3 DELEGATES)
APRIL 29-30, 2016, DOWNTOWN HILTON, MINNEAPOLIS, MN

☐ NEA RETIRED ANNUAL MEETING—JUNE 29—JULY 30, 2016 AND
NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY—JULY 2-7, 2016
(7 DELEGATES) WASHINGTON, DC

Please provide your statement on the reverse side of this form.

NOMINATION STATEMENT

In 40 words or less, please indicate why you are running for the chosen position. If more than 40 words are submitted, the nominations committee reserves the right to edit.

Election Guidelines

- Elected candidates will assume office immediately following the Education Minnesota Retired Annual Meeting on Friday April 29, 2016.
- Nominations must have the permission of the person whose name is being submitted for election.
- Nominees are required to attend all meetings at the events for which they are elected. Delegates to the NEA Retired Annual Meeting & NEA Representative Assembly will be reimbursed a maximum of \$2,000 towards expenses. Any expenses incurred over \$2,000 will be paid for by the delegate.
- All Education Minnesota Retired members will receive a ballot to vote for Delegates, and only vote for the Congressional District Director Candidates for their District.
- Submit this form and a photo by Friday, November 13, 2015 (must be postmarked by Nov. 13, 2015) to **Education Minnesota Retired Nominating Committee, 41 Sherburne Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55103-2196**. Digital pictures may be emailed to matt.blewett@edmn.org.
- Photos and Bios of each candidate will be included with the ballots that mail the week of December 1, 2015
- If you have questions, call the Education Minnesota Retired office at 651-292-4877 or 800-642-4624.

ELECTION TIMELINE

- Nov. 13, 2015 Nomination form **and picture** must be returned, postmarked on or before November 13, 2015.
- Dec. 1, 2015 Ballots and Bios will be sent by mail to Education Minnesota Retired members the week of December 1, 2015.
- Jan. 6, 2016 Ballots must be returned (post marked on or before January 6, 2015) to Education Minnesota Retired.

FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTION

Education Minnesota has established a non profit, charitable organization whose purpose is to provide grant funds to members and certain other non profit groups. The Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning is governed by a Board of Trustees who are members of Education Minnesota.

Since it's inception, the Foundation has funded 868 projects and awarded more than \$2.4 million in grants.

If you have any questions, please contact the Education Minnesota Foundation director, Dayonna Knutson 800-652-9073

Mail contributions to:
Education Minnesota Foundation
41 Sherburne Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55103



FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions to Education Minnesota Foundation
from Education Minnesota Retired Members

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Enclosed is a check payable to Education Minnesota
Foundation in the amount of \$ _____

All donations to the Education Minnesota Foundation are tax deductible!

Mail contributions to: 41 Sherburne Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55103

061



PAC CONTRIBUTION

Contributions to Education Minnesota PAC
from Education Minnesota Retired Members

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Enclosed is a check payable to Education Minnesota PAC
in the amount of \$ _____

Mail contributions to: 41 Sherburne Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55103

*Education Minnesota Retired members can participate on screening teams if they contribute to Education Minnesota PAC.



Through affiliation with Education Minnesota, Education Minnesota Retired retains access to political action and resources essential in electing 'friends of education' and the lobbying efforts essential to maintain and improve Minnesota teacher retirement programs. Concurrently, retired educators also remain vitally active and interested in educational programs critical to quality education in MN.

To support these efforts, the Education Minnesota Retired Governing Board encourages retirees to contribute at least \$20.00 to Education Minnesota PAC. Education Minnesota Retired members who contribute are eligible to participate on screening teams that interview candidates and recommend endorsements of 'friends of education'.

Contact Education Minnesota Public Affairs/PAC Dept. with questions at 800-652-9073.

Mail contributions to:
41 Sherburne Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55103

EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL WORLD CONGRESS

BY BOBBIE MARGO

The Education International 7th World Congress was held in Ottawa, Ontario Canada in the Shaw Centre from July 21-26, 2015. Ottawa has a population of over 1.2 million and is on the banks of the Ottawa, Rideau and Gatineau Rivers. The city is the Capitol of Canada and is the home of The Government of Canada, The Parliament, The Senate and The Supreme Court. Ottawa is also rich in culture and heritage with its many national museums, parklands, waterways, and historic architecture.

Education International (EI) was founded in 1993 in Stockholm, Sweden as an association of national teachers' unions and a merger of their international umbrella organizations. IFTU (International Federation of Teachers' Unions-AFT was a member) and WCOTP (World Confederation of Teaching Professions-NEA was a member) joined to form a more powerful organization. E.I.'s World Congress is the supreme governing body of Education International and is held every four years in different world locations. E.I. has 5 regions including: Africa, Asia/Pacific, Europe, Latin America, North America/Caribbean. Previous E.I. Congress locations have included Zimbabwe, Washington D.C., Thailand, Brazil, Germany, and South Africa. Education International is a federation of 396 associations and unions in 171 countries and territories. E.I. represents over 32.5 million educators and support professionals in education from Pre-K through higher education institutions.

At this 7th Congress, NEA was represented by 50 official delegates and 65 registered observers. There were six Education Minnesota Retired members who attended (and paid for) this year's Congress-Myrna Doran, Julie Jagusch, Sharon Kjellberg, Bobbie Margo, Carmen Peters, and Judy Rohde. This year's 7th Congress brought together 1000+ delegates from education unions in 154 countries.

The Congress program included general sessions, caucuses, breakout sessions, social events, and receptions. The Congress dealt with 45 resolutions, 95 amendments, 7 policy paper resolutions, and the emergency resolution dealing with the Nepal Earthquake Recovery. The official languages of the Congress were English, French, Spanish and German. However, translation equipment was also provided since many participants did not speak or understand any of the official languages. An awards dinner/ceremony was also held. This year's recipient of the "Albert Shanker Education Award" was Luisa Bautista-Yu (from the Philippines). The "Mary Hatwood Futrell Human and Trade Union Rights Award" was presented to Ahmed Jassim Salih Al-Shiblawi (from Iraq). Elections were held for several Executive Board positions. NEA President Lily Eskelsen Garcia was elected as E.I.'s Vice-President for North America/Caribbean. AFT President Randi Weingarten was also elected to a board position representing the North America-Caribbean region.

On behalf of my 5 Education Minnesota Retired colleagues, I encourage you to get your passport papers in order and to check out E.I.'s website www.ei-ie.org. When you attend an E.I. Congress you experience the true meaning of unionism and solidarity worldwide! The next four years will be here before you know it!



Whole Person Senior Care - Proven to Keep the Spark in Life!

A premium home care provider and more, Lifesprk brings you a whole person senior care approach that can reduce ER visits by 52% and hospitalizations by 73%. Find out how that transforms the experience for you and your family.

***"Lifesprk is the best thing we ever did.
If I could do it differently, I would have involved
them from the very beginning."***

Shelley MacDonald,
Education Minnesota ESI



952-345-8770

www.lifesprk.com/edMNnav



Retired

**DATEBOOK
ENCLOSED**

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October 2015

Education Minnesota Retired
41 Sherburne Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55103
<http://retired.mn.aft.org/>

Phone: 651-292-4877 / 800-642-4624
Fax: 651-292-4815
Email: matt.blewett@edmn.org

**ELECTION NOMINATION
FORM ENCLOSED**

C A L E N D A R O F E V E N T S

**Mark your
calendars!**

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| October 15 | Education Minnesota Retired Breakfast
<i>Science Museum, St. Paul</i> |
| October 15 | Education Minnesota's MEA Conference
<i>St. Paul RiverCentre</i> |
| November 11 | Veteran's Day |
| November 16 | Retired Governing Board Meeting |
| November 26 | Thanksgiving Day |
| December 25 | Christmas Day |

See "Calendar" on www.educationminnesota.org for additional Education Minnesota, NEA and AFT meetings, events and other information.

**2015-2016
Datebook
Inside!**

**Look us up on the web at
<http://retired.mn.aft.org>**



<https://www.facebook.com/EducationMinnesotaRetired>